



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Raised Bill No. 930

LCO No. 3081



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT
PROCEEDINGS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2013*) (a) In a family relations
2 matter, as defined in section 46b-1 of the general statutes, any member
3 of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103 of the general statutes,
4 who is entitled to a stay of proceedings pursuant to the
5 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 USC App. 501 et seq., as amended
6 from time to time, may, subject to the approval of the court under
7 subsection (b) of this section, elect to proceed with such matter while
8 such member is unavailable to appear in the location in which the
9 family relations matter is brought. Any such member who elects to
10 proceed with such matter may seek relief and provide testimony
11 through videoconferencing, or, if the court determines that
12 videoconferencing is impracticable due to such member's military
13 service or the inability of the court to accommodate videoconferencing,
14 through Internet camera, telephone or other reasonable electronic
15 means. Such testimony shall be (1) provided under oath, (2) in a
16 manner observable by or, in the case of testimony provided by

17 telephone, audible to all parties, and (3) recorded by a qualified court
18 reporter. In any family relations matter where a party who is
19 physically present in the state is permitted to use affidavits to seek
20 temporary relief, such member may submit testimony by affidavit.

21 (b) The court shall permit such member of the armed forces to
22 proceed with such a family relations matter in the manner described in
23 subsection (a) of this section unless, for good cause shown, the
24 opposing party in such matter establishes that the use of the electronic
25 means of presenting testimony would substantially prejudice such
26 party.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	New section
-----------	---------------------	-------------

Statement of Purpose:

To provide that a member of the armed forces who is entitled to a stay of proceedings in a family relations matter pursuant to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act may seek relief and provide testimony by electronic means under certain conditions.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]